



Arizona Department of Public Safety

- For Immediate Release -

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Arizona Department of Public Safety Will Conduct Intensive Enforcement to Keep Highways Safe During July 4th Holiday.

During last year's 4th of July holiday a total of 24 people died in collisions on Arizona's roadways. This year's holiday falls between the weekends of the June 29 and July 7 – with many planning to celebrate the weekends before and after the 4th. The Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) has put together a list of several of the top cause of collisions.

Impaired Driving – If you are planning on drinking this holiday make sure you have a designated driver or plan to call a cab. Once you start drinking your ability to make sound judgments decreases with each drink. Impaired driving extends beyond just the consumption of alcohol. Never use illegal drugs or drive while on prescription drugs that may impair your driving ability.

Safety Belts – A safety belt will ensure that you stop with your car. Without it, you may end up being thrown from the vehicle if you are involved in a collision.

Speeding – Speeding greatly increases the chances of a collision and reduces the amount of time to avoid one. Following the speed limits will decrease the chances of serious injury or even death in a collision.

Yield to Emergency Vehicles – This is known as the Move Over law and calls for motorists to safely merge to an adjacent lane when law enforcement or other first responders are stopped near or on the road. If it is not possible for the driver to move into the adjacent lane the law calls for the driver to reduce his or her speed and proceed with extreme caution.

Attentiveness/Fatigue – Make sure your calls and text messages have been made before your drive. If your phone rings let it go to voicemail and call the person back when you have reached your destination. Make sure you are well rested before getting behind the wheel.

In addition DPS will increase enforcements efforts during peak collision times. This coincides with the DPS' support of Operation Combined Accident Reduction Effort (CARE) – a national effort by state law enforcement agencies to reduce highway collisions, particularly during national holidays.

For more information on Operation CARE visit: www.careofnorthamerica.org

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